

MAY 8 1920

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THE CANADIAN RAILROADER

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THOSE CATHOLIC LABOR UNIONS AN EXPERIMENT IN PRISON REFORM

OTTAWA, LONDON AND SCOTTISH LETTERS
From Our Own Correspondents.

OFFICIAL ORGAN,
FIFTH SUNDAY
MEETING ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA

MONTREAL, MAY 8th, 1920
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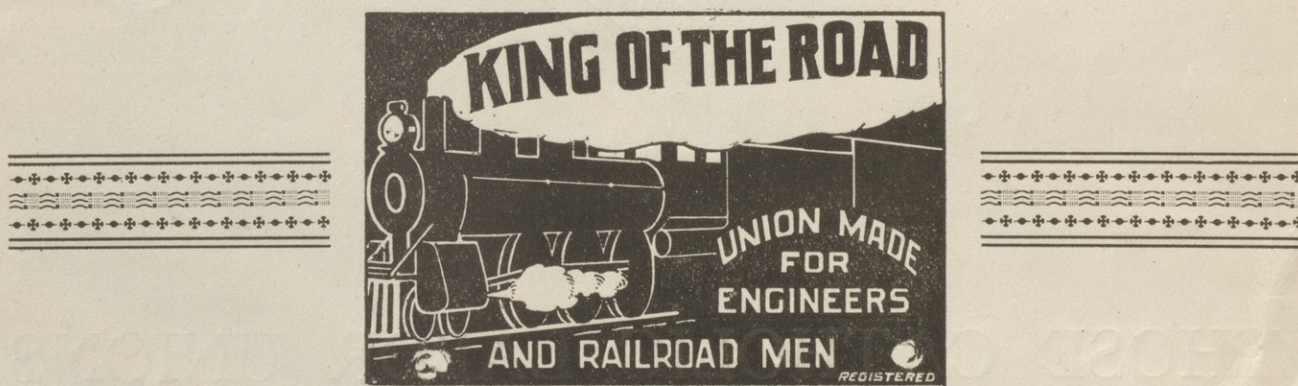
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OUR LONDON LETTER

(From our own Correspondent.)

Landon, April 16th. Sunday duty or night duty earnings.

This week has seen a fresh settlement for those railwaymen who are members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

When the other railway operatives' union were given an automatic sliding scale system of advances, the "loco" men were not included, as they were not parties to the negotiations. They have now been placed under it and advances worth 75c a week, with a little back pay, have been agreed upon, subject, of course, to the acceptance of the rank and file.

The new arrangement is interesting enough to give in some detail:

In view of the increase in the cost of living, since the settlement, relating to enginemen's wages was arrived at, on August 18th, 1919, at which date the cost of living stood at 115 per cent, war wages advances based on the sliding scale set out in Clause 1 of agreement of March 20th, 1920, as to male staff employed in conciliation grades, are to be given to engine drivers and motor-men and adult engine cleaners as follows:

2d. per week from November 1st 1919, when the cost of living stood at 120 per cent. over normal. A further 50c, making 50c per week, from December 1st, when the cost of living stood at 125 per cent over normal, and a further 15c, making 25c. per week, from March 1st, when the cost of living was 130 per cent. over normal.

Cleaners under 18 to receive half the amounts mentioned above. The arrears to March 31st will not be calculated in detail, but will be paid in the shape of a flat rate, and calculated on the basis of seven days to the week at the appropriate agreed rates. This flat rate will be full compensation for any overtime,

Sunday duty or night duty earnings.

It was agreed that, in view of the fact that the cost of living had risen from 125 per cent above the normal, as shown in the Ministry of Labor statistics from January, 1920, to 130 per cent above normal in March, an increased war wage of 25c per week be granted as from April 1st to all adult male staffs employed in the conciliation grades on the railways, in Great Britain, other than engine men. It was pointed out, by the men's side of the board, that owing to the partial withdrawal by the Government of the bread subsidy, on April 1st, a further increase in the cost of living may be expected immediately. It was agreed that, as a special case, the Board shall again meet to review the situation when the Ministry of Labor's statistics as to cost of living on May 1st are available.

If it is then found that further increase in war wage is justified, on the scale set out in Clause 1 of the agreement of March 20th, 1920, such increase shall be granted and made applicable from April 12th, 1920, the date on which the price of bread to the consumer was raised. It is understood that this departure from the exact terms of the agreement is entirely exceptional, and is only made in view of the fact that the increase in the price of bread, taking effect very shortly after the date of a periodical revision, is not an ordinary market fluctuation, but results directly from the action of the Government.

An application, made by the National Union of Railwaymen, for an increase for their members, of \$5.00 per week, will be further considered, at an adjourned meeting of the Central Wages Board to be held if possible during the present month.

Textile workers are still pressing for a larger share in the profits of the industry.

Delegates of the Northern Counties Textile Federation waited on the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation and asked for the weavers employed by that body the 60 per cent increase on current wages which they have previously sought from the Cotton Manufacturers' Association. The employers refused the application and recommend Government arbitration, as they did to the cardroom workers and the operative spinners.

No section of the operatives will accept this. Each demands some definite wages offer.

The Textile Federation subsequently waited on the Cotton Manufacturers' Association and refused to accept the 55 per cent increase on standard rates which was offered in response to the demand for a 60 per cent advance on current wages. They asked the manufacturers to

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make a better offer, but this the employers declined to do.

The Co-operative movement is up in arms against the proposal in the Majority Report of the Income Tax Commission, that the surplus "profits" of the societies should be subject to tax. Meetings and conferences all over the country are passing resolutions of protest and the Co-operative Union has established a special defence fund.

With this campaign, the Labor Party and the trade unions are in entire sympathy and a combined deputation will probably wait on the Chancellor of the Exchequer next week.

The Co-operators base their opposition to the proposed taxation on the ground that their so-called "profits" are not profits but "savings." The Royal Commission agreed with this argument with respect to that portion of the "savings" which is returned to members in the form of "dividend" on purchases, but the majority insisted that the balance or surplus, which the Co-operative societies now place to reserves, or expend in educational, charitable and political channels, is taxable.

This battle has been fought before, and hitherto the Co-operators have won. Fortified as they are now, with a reservation to the Majority Report, signed by seven prominent members of the Commission, and it must be said, with a just and logical case, they hope to crush for ever these attempts to raid their funds.

The Co-operators are also up against the proposal to tax their savings at the source. As nearly the whole membership enjoy incomes below the exemption limit, this plan would involve millions of reclaims—a costly and wasteful proceeding which the Co-operators would be bound in their own defence to encourage.

The Government's Unemployment Insurance Bill will become a dead letter so far as the trade unions are concerned, unless an obnoxious provision inserted in Grand Committee is deleted.

At present State, unemployment insurance benefit is paid through the trade unions and the Labor Exchanges, and under the extended scheme it was intended to follow the same procedure.

An amendment, however, provides that the insurance may be effected

through ordinary commercial insurance companies and friendly societies. The intrusion of these bodies would aim a blow at the vitals of trade unionism, and the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress informed the Government that if the amendment stood it would advise the whole of the affiliated organizations to boycott the measure.

The Government has now promised that the rejection of the obnoxious provision will be moved when the Bill reaches the report stage.

The miners, by a majority of 65,135, have decided to accept the Government's terms.

Figures reported to a delegate conference held at the Memorial Hall, London, yesterday, are:

For acceptance	442,704
For a strike	377,569

Majority for acceptance . . 65,135

The conference unanimously accepted the decision and the miners will thus get a 20 per cent advance in gross wages excluding war wage, and Sankey wage, with a guaranteed flat rate of 50c. per shift advance for adults, 25c. for persons between 16 and 18 years of age, and 2.25 for those below 16.

The men's demand was for 75c. per shift for adults and 32c. for boys.

It was announced by the conference chairman, Herbert Smith, that the executive were making arrangements with the Coal Controller for the advances to be paid, on April 30th or May 1st, according to when pay day fell. Arrangements will also be made for those workers who are not directly under the Coal Controller.

The adult miners are thus assured of an extra 2.50 if they work five shift week, 2.75 for those whose week is on a 5½ shift basis. Piece workers will get more than that in many instances. Together with the "Sankey" money granted last year, they will have roundly 5.00 a week more than before the previous advance.

Ethelbert Pogson.

:o:

Teachers are leaving for other employment in such large numbers that the Chief Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick has addressed the Legislature, urging larger salaries.

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Catholic Labor Union Folly

(By GEORGE PIERCE.)

THE very queer little pink booklet entitled "The Sheet Anchor," with the sub-title of "National Labor Unions in Canada," by Lawrence Drummond, has been brought to my attention. It has been circulated extensively through the Catholic Guild and deals with the subject of the Catholic National Labor Unions versus the International Unions. Because many trades unionists are unfamiliar with its contents, this editorial is written.

So that there can be no misinterpretation, no remote possibility of misunderstanding, I wish to assert that I have no quarrel with the religion of any man. On the broad sea of life there is room for every sail. If a man through conviction or birth or geographical habitation chooses to worship in the Catholic or Protestant faith, that is strictly his business in my conception. I am perfectly willing to give to others the same toleration which I claim for myself, but I am of the firm opinion that no religion, neither Catholic or Protestant, Hindu, Mohammedan, Jewish or Gentile, should be introduced in trades union affairs, because solidarity is impossible in the industrial movement if religious quarrels and prejudices become the subject for debate in trade union meetings. This is the reason why trades unionism has been non-sectarian from the very beginning. The churches, the schools, the various religious societies, all have their functions. The trades union also has its function. It is perfectly logical that in the church and in the school-room, the ecclesiastical organizations or religions may train the individual from the cradle to his manhood in such a manner that he will become the highest type spiritually and physically and mentally, and because of his attainments, achieve influence and leadership among his fellows in the trades union movement. Personally, I have had five years training under the Jesuits, and I have never had cause to regret the experience.

Now the question of the organization of Catholic National Unions is a provincial one. It is not a papal decree. It does not come from Rome, it is not a doctrine of the Church. Even the Quebec clergy are not in accord. There have been no pronouncements from the Archbishop on the question. It seems to be confined almost entirely to an enthusiastic section of the clergy who are probably of the sincere opinion that Catholic unions would be better for the general community than International Unions, but this is merely a theory, and we Internationalists certainly have the right to debate the question.

Every trades unionist who possesses an ounce of brains realizes that the key-stone in the arch of labor is its solidarity on the question of hours, wages and working conditions. Now, suppose the men attached to the different faiths would have the right to take up the time of any union meeting

by presenting the dogmas of the many faiths to which the workers were attached? How much progress would be made in trade union matters? For hundreds of years, mankind has been unable to reach an agreement on matters of faith. Will any one be rash enough to assert that agreement can be reached in a trades union lodge-room under such conditions? We have one hundred and eighty million dollars worth of churches, church property and allied institutions in Montreal. These are the proper places to preach religion and to teach dogma. Why should the lodge-room be invaded?

I use the word "invaded" after reading "The Sheet Anchor."

On the first page I find this statement:

"International unions are not as a rule governed by sound principles of law and order. Judging the tree by its fruits, or by the frequency and seriousness of strikes called by the International Unions, and which not infrequently result in a minimum of advantages for the strikers and in a minimum of inconvenience for the public, the International Unions do not make for peace and harmony. They preach war to the death between classes; they tell the workman that he must better his condition by fair means or by foul. Like a storm-tossed ship without a pilot, their deluded members are driven hither and thither by every wind of doctrine."

Another section on page nine relates to the Three Rivers convention. Referring to the organizations represented, we quote the following.

"Some of these organizations had severed their International Connections and cast their lot with the National Unions. This with the case with several Quebec syndicates whose evolution from the vagaries of internationalism to the sane principles of law and order as embodied in National Unions, is most interesting."

With reference to the high cost of living, I find on page nine that the delegates "Made it a point to state their regret that increasing salaries should at the present be the Canadian workmen's only means of securing the necessities of life; they contended that the remedy of higher cost of living by increasing salaries was merely an expedient, only apparently beneficial to those who adopted it, that the advantages thus obtained by one group of workers were detrimental to those who did not obtain the same advantages, that this system tended to ruin our industries, to multiply our economic difficulties and to foster a state of mind conducive to bankruptcy and revolution."

On page eleven we come to the question of working hours. I quote the entire chapter because it will be of great interest to trades unionists.

"The Convention expresses the opinion that any provision enforcing a fixed number of hours for the legal working day is arbitrary, unwise and inopportune, but it maintains that

the length of working days should be such as to give the workman a reasonable time to recuperate, to perform his duties as husband, father, citizen and Catholic, and to do justice to the reasonable obligations of commerce, industry and finances."

The Convention evidently did not pin its faith to the eight-hour doctrine. "We see no advantage", declared some of the speakers, "in legalizing a uniform eight-hour day for trades requiring little effort and carried on under favorable sanitary conditions. On the other hand, we find the same eight-hour day excessive for other very exhaustive trades practised under most depressing conditions. Instead of claiming an arbitrary regulation which ignores obvious differences, we lay down the principles governing the whole question and let the various trades conform to these principles according to their respective needs."

"Less working hours and a higher salary are all very well," remarked a speaker, "but if every one does less and earns more, the cost of living will go rising and where will it stop? Then what about the poor devil who belongs to no union and can get no increase? Will his conditions improve?"

Permit me now to direct you to page thirteen, which deals with the question of "Child labor". "The Convention appeals to the kind feelings of all those who employ children, to see that they be given work suited to their age." Trade unionists who have unremittingly fought against child-labor will be highly enlightened by this particular clause.

For the present I will conclude by offering you the quotation on page fourteen on "Sympathetic strikes".

"Considering that sympathetic strikes are prejudicial to public order,

the committee on resolutions recommends that the Convention declare itself categorically opposed to sympathetic strikes, but enjoins on labor unions to support, by all just and legitimate means, the claims of a union, through the employers and workmen carrying on the trade covered by that union."

Let us suppose for the sake of argument that the Catholic unions became an unqualified success. In other words, all Catholics would leave the International organizations and join organizations of their own, and all Jews would do likewise, and the Protestants would proceed as the others had already done. Suppose that all sects and religious denominations would be equally successful in dismembering the Internationals, suppose that each religious trades union organization adopted a different system, subscribed to different methods and followed a hundred different principles in dealing with the employer.

Suppose in other words, that you all entered into competition with one another on the question of hours, in the matter of wages and in all affairs relating to the conditions under which you work. Suppose that you cannot alter your constitution without religious authority, suppose that you cannot hold a legal meeting unless the chaplain is present, suppose that you were scattered to the winds, strewn upon the industrial fields, shattered with violent dissension. What a damn fine picnic this would be for the employer! Go to your churches, worship as you will — this is your inalienable right — but, in the lodge-room, if you allow sectarian discussion, you will be welding the chains on your brother man, chains that will crunch and grind him back into the slavery from the depth and degradation of which he has only just arisen.

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An Experiment in Prison Reform

By JOHN KIDMAN, Secretary, Canadian Prisoners' Welfare Association.

Reviewing a war book, "Caught by Turks", the writer of a newspaper concludes with the following paragraph: "The philosophy of imprisonment forms an important chapter. One deduction is that, even with friends, exercises, reading, amusements, games, proper food, and study imprisonment tends to break down a man's character. If this is true of a highly cultivated man like the British officer who wrote this tale, what must be the effect of long imprisonment upon our criminals without any of these amenities?"


This statement greeted the eye of the writer of the present article on returning from a visit to Clinton prison at Dannemore, New York State, where one of the most notable experiments in treating the criminal as a human being possible of uplift during period of punishment, has been introduced. It is all the more interesting because this prison was formerly known for its harsh atmosphere even in penal life, and to it have been sent, and are sent still, the worst cases of New York State.

The conception of a penitentiary in Canada at the present day is an institution where men are incarcerated on long sentence for a definite period, though, by certain rules, an automatic reduction of sentence is granted on ticket-of-leave: where men are kept in cells by themselves when not working in groups: where they are not allowed to converse with each other: where there is neither music nor athletic recreation, and where, except for private effort, no books are allowed: where, in fact, the man emerges with no mental or moral asset added to his personality, but saddled with the stigma of the convict, the bitterness of enforced reflection, and the acquired vice that invariably creeps into institutions of this character.

What Was Seen.

On leaving Plattsburg, we reached Dannemora, sixteen miles away up in the hills, overlooking an arm of Lake Champlain. The warden, Harry M. Kaiser, a staunch American with some very close friends in Canada, afforded us personal hospitality for the week-end, and gave every facility for inspecting Clinton State Prison. Of course, there are walls around it, for it contains 191 men who have slain their fellows and who are serving from twenty years to life sentences. But these men are not cooped up in cells or dungeons: they were seen in large halls on Sunday, and on Monday they would be seen in workshops making tinware articles, cotton goods and such com-

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modities, for which there is a nominal payment of one cent and a half per day. The principle is right, and it may some day be raised to a living wage which will help solve the problem of the prisoner's family or his own future. Altogether there are nearly one thousand inmates in this institution, and in their treat-

ment there are certain unusual features that stand out — and for which this delegation of the Canadian Prisoner's Welfare Association is pressing in Canada.

There is the indeterminate sentence, under which a man is committed to prison for, say, from two to five years. If he makes good in

prison, the parole board at the end of the two years will consider his case and may release him shortly thereafter: but if he has been refractory he will serve his maximum term. Or if he is released at the end of two years and fails to observe the conditions of parole, then he will be returned to prison to complete his maximum term. In this way, the inmate has incentive to improve the attitude towards society.

But is a man likely to show moral and mental improvement if he is kept in a cell, if he is idle and if he has insufficient food and exercise? The answer of Clinton prison is in the negative, for which reason the men are employed in workshops for several hours a day. They are allowed to play ball game on certain days: they are given moving picture entertainments once or twice a week, and they are allowed to have two books a week from the state provided library. In Canada the Canadian Prisoners' Welfare Association had some difficulty in obtaining permission to establish libraries from their funds in penal institutions, federal and provincial.

The Sick Convict.

The commodious hospitals for the mentally and physically sick were studies in their arrangements. Regular hospital beds in airy and well-lighted wards were provided, and in the tubercular hospital the meals were ordered by the doctor for the individuals patients' needs. Even in the criminally insane ward, the inmates had a good measure of liberty consistent with safety to the little community, and only the most dangerous cases were confined by themselves. Light, ventilation and cleanliness marked all the wards and premises. Meals were served in big dining rooms on clean tables, and it was interesting to note over the entrance a bulletin board on which were chalked the latest scores in outside baseball games.

Idleness and illiteracy are held by Deputy Warden Burby to be great promoters of crime. In this institution there is a school with a paid outside teacher, and the illiterate man is not permitted to leave as he came in. There are several acres of land on which agricultural work is carried out, and the good conduct men are given preference for this work.

The Warden reported a dropping of crime in New York State, which he attributed largely to plentiful employment, high wages, and prohibition.

The writer and his associates are anxious to see public interest in Canada aroused in the question of more effectively handling those who break the law, first in the direction of granting suspended sentence in case of first offenders, so that they need not to go to prison at all: second, in the adoption of the indeterminate sentence: and third, in the abolition of cruel and repressive methods in prison and substitution of educative and moral influences.

What Workers Want and Appreciate Most Is Man-To-Man Consideration

One reason why many employers find employees unresponsive to the installation of new features intended for their betterment is the suspicion held by many of the latter that there is a "nigger in the wood-pile" somewhere. This suspicion, in some instances, is founded on cases of broken faith, or something or other which has looked very much like it. In other instances it is due to attempts to force "favors" upon employees, a practice looked upon with grave distrust by them.

The most frequent cause of this unfortunate condition has been the installation of systems or methods, on the pretence that they would benefit the workers quite as much as employers, when, as a matter of fact, many of these devices have been intended solely to enhance the interests of the latter. Such illusions were commonly practiced in past years and it is therefore with some

considerable degree of justification that the employee still looks with suspicion upon anything new offered for his benefit.

Many elaborate plans, possessing much genuine merit, have failed simply because the employees were suspicious of them. Much of this suspicion could have been overcome by personal talks with the men, even in a body, instead of at long range, through handbills, posters and letters.

Another source of irritation to the employee, and one which more deeply imbeds his suspicions, in the attempts to baby or coddle him. Attempts to force his interest in athletics, balls, picnics, house publications, libraries, and debating societies are particularly nauseating to him. It is humiliating for him to become interested in efforts of this character, and he usually refuses to do so. His refusal is frequently accompanied by open ridicule of the effort. Such attempts to win the average employee are instinctively and deeply resented by him, and the resentment quickly develops into a firm suspicion of the most pronounced type. Many employers have made honest efforts along these lines, only to find, in time, that they were unnecessarily building up suspicion and undermining their sounder relations with their employees. Unconsciously they were furnishing the disturbing elements with an endless supply of ammunition.

What the worker wants and appreciates most is man-to-man consideration. He wants the best working conditions that can be given him. He wants wages that will enable him to live well. He wants his work well defined, but with a degree of freedom for the exercise of his creation genius. He wants some assurance of continuance of work. He wants to work under good and intelligent foremen — the better they are the better he likes it. He appreciates good, sound industrial talks by men who know what they are talking about—if from the shop, the better. Such talkers should refrain from the effort to be "spellbinders," and should not be over-forceful or too emphatic.

An honest endeavor on the part of the employer along the lines which the foregoing suggests will appeal to the real men in any shop, and no employer wants other than real men working for him. The kind of men that he can easily fool in this day and age are not worth the effort and expense required to fool them.—National Labor Digest.

:o:

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A Question of Rank

LADY Leblanc, widow of the late Sir Evariste Leblanc, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, was in the Montreal Police Court the other day as a witness in a case against a chauffeur who had been joyriding on his own account in Lady Leblanc's \$8,000 Pierce-Arrow limousine and nearly reduced it to scrap iron in a collision.

The Gazette had quite a story about the thing, one of the most interesting points of which was the statement that Lady Leblanc "on account of her rank" had not been asked to enter the witness box, but had, instead, given her evidence from her seat beside her lawyer.

Sometimes there are good and sufficient reasons why the rule of giving evidence from the witness box may be departed from, but "on account of rank" of the witness is not one of them in this democratic age in this democratic country. They apply equally to a street hawker and a belted earl. No class distinction in courts of justice is tolerable to a free people who founded free courts. If King George himself were a witness in a court case his rank alone would be no valid reason why he should not give his evidence from the witness box in the same manner as the most humble of his citizens. It can be taken for granted from what is known of him that he would decline to be treated differently merely because of his rank, and, if memory serves aright, he gave his evidence from the witness box in the libel case in which he was concerned some years ago.

His son has the same spirit. Only last week, in New Zealand, he declined to ride on a train during a railway strike on the ground that the people could not use the trains and he was one of the people.

There is no fear, of course, that a little bowing and scraping to rank here and there is the thin edge of the wedge for the weakening of the free and equal institutions of the people. Rank today is a social distinction measured by most persons for precisely what it is worth. Not even in England, where folks are said to dearly love a lord, do lords and ladies count for much unless they

are great men and fine women as well. The rank is but the guinea stamp, and the world knows it, though it did not quite know it when Burns wrote his immortal lines. We look on salaaming to rank for rank's sake as snobbery. We are amused at it as a serious, if light-brained, pastime of "Society". Still, it does irritate us in our free institutions, such as our courts of justice, where it has no right to be.

Let's hope the Gazette reporter got the wrong notion of the incident concerning Lady Leblanc, who is advancing in years and who might quite well have good reason for accepting a seat beside her lawyer, apart from the considerations of mere rank.

K. C.

Hands Stretched Out

WHEN the police court reporter finishes up a story with the statement — "He was handed over to the Salvation Army", what becomes of the man? Brigadier Alex. MacMillan, probation officer, or his assistant, Ensign Pitcher, takes the man, if he is penniless, to the industrial home on Chatham street in Montreal, where he can earn his living for a few days until a more permanent situation is found. Or, if the man has a home in Montreal, then the probation officer sees to it that he goes back to his ordinary work and by keeping in touch with the man and his family, he sees that he does not get into further trouble with the police.

No one but those who visit the police court frequently can have any conception of how many men and women there are of fairly respectable character who get into minor troubles that bring them into the hands of the police. In past years large numbers of these men and women have been sent to jail for some little scrap or brawl, a petty theft, or some similar offence. Not having any ready money, or being unable to adequately present their case, they have been sent down to Bordeaux jail for a week or a fortnight. That fortnight in jail is often the beginning of a prison career. To combat this condition of things, the Salvation Army started its court probation work over a year ago in this city, and by going round the cells soon after 8 a.m. in the mornings, its officers have rescued many a man or woman from a prison sentence by going in to see the judge and explaining the circumstances. Last year 500 visits of this character were made to the police courts: nearly 7,000 hours were spent on these visits, nearly 5,000 interviews were given. The human result was that about 700 prisoners were handed over to the Salvation Army to take care of instead of handing them over to Bordeaux jail. For these people 339 positions were secured: 212 of them were sent back to friends, and at the Chatham street industrial home 3,000 meals were provided, as well as 1,449 beds.

Moreover, the same officers pay regular visits to the Bordeaux jail and to St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary. There is no more helpless person than the newly-discharged prisoner, especially the one who has been in on a fairly long term. These officers know when men are coming out and they make arrangements to help them in the same way as those taken from the police court. But for this timely help, a large proportion of the ex-convicts would find their way back to jail, so that in assisting them regain their footing in life — and particularly in helping to prevent people losing that footing by going into jail — the probation work of the Salvation Army should commend itself to the mind of all thinking citizens.

CAEDMON.

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Sir Auckland Geddes One of Chief
Speakers at Religious Mass
Meeting

(Gazette, May 3.)

Washington, May 2.—Vice-president Marshall and Sir Auckland Geddes, the British Ambassador to the United States, today, sounded a warning that the survival of democracy and the establishment of peace throughout the world are dependent upon a great revival of the true religion on which the civilization of the Christian world has been built.

The Vice-President and the Ambassador were the principal speakers at a great mass meeting held at Belasco Theatre, in the interest of the inter-church world movement, and both of them declared that this inter-church movement afforded the opportunity for just such a revival. Many men prominent in political, diplomatic and national life were present. Charles Henry Butler presided and Secretaries Lansing and Alexander, as well as Rev. Dr. Campbell Morgan, of England, were on the platform. A striking tribute was paid to the British Ambassador when, during the singing of "America" one verse was sung to the words of "God Save the King."

"There is a question of great importance in many countries in Europe at the present time that I believe you, too, may have to face," said the Ambassador. "It is purely political in form. It is absolutely religious in its answer. It is this: 'Is true democracy to survive, or is power in so-called democratic countries to pass into the hands of a determined minority that always knows what it wants, loot, and that knows how to get it, by bribery perhaps, by blackmail perhaps, by terrorism perhaps, or by subtle corruption?'"

"And when that question has to be asked in any nation, I believe the true answer depends upon whether a majority of your citizens are subjects of God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, or worshippers before the false gods."

Religion forgotten

Sir Auckland said he did not think that the church had kept pace with the industrial revolution of the last century, and that the religion upon which civilization is based has been forgotten in the great cities.

"The materialism of the city today is the mill stone round the neck of democracy, which is dragging democracy down and making it possible for a determined minority, through blackmail or corruption, to compel people to agree to vote for things they do not want," he said.

"That way lie destruction and disaster, and the loss of all freedom that the centuries have won."

"The expanse of men's minds,



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ploughed and harrowed by the horrors of years of war, lies open like a field ready to be sown; and just as it is ready for the right seed, so it is ready to receive the seeds of poisonous weeds. It is the sowers that we need now; by the support you are giving this movement, you make it possible for the sowers to go forth. And remember, they will sow seed that will germinate and grow only if their sowing is done in the name and for sake of love."

Vice-President Marshall, honorary chairman of the inter-church movement in the district, said:

"Gentlemen may cry 'peace, peace,' but there will be no peace until the church resumes its functions, renews its faith and proves its faith by its work. It is idle to legislate for purity if the priest above his book is to leer at his neighbor's wife. It is vain to enact laws punishing murder if the elders are to continue working little children to death. It is useless to forbid larceny if the deacons make large church contributions out of excess profits wrung jointly from labor and the ultimate consumer."

Church Complacent.

"The church, with a complacent smile, has turned over to the state the enforcement of the moral law and the state has failed, as it always will, to enforce it, while the man on the street sneers at the church."

"Awake, O Zion, and if you really believe in the communion of the saints prove it by consistent conduct. This is no holier than thou message. I myself am a sinner."

"The man on the street is not tired of the words of the Nazarene. When the church takes back the disciplining of the moral and religious life of its members, when it trains up its children with fixed views, when it proves its faith in the communion of the saints by its works, its courts will be thronged with worshippers and there will be no need for patch-work legislation to reconcile labor and capital, nation and nation."

"This, O God, makes the supreme desire and the one motive of all those engaged in this great movement. If it be not, then our money might as well be spent upon a Roman holiday."

Our OTTAWA LETTER

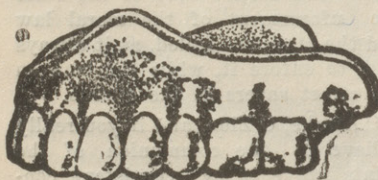
(From our own Correspondent)

IT is now announced tentatively that the Budget will be produced on Monday, May the 10th, but with the present Government nothing can ever be considered definite. There is keen speculation as to its contents and not a little anxiety, in certain quarters. Last year numerous western Coalitionists were kept within the fold by the fine promises of an inquiry into the tariff to be followed by changes which would go far to meet their views. They were thereby induced to vote for the 1919 Budget and by saving the Government also to save the country from untold perils. But if Sir Henry Drayton brings down a replica of last year's budget adorned with a few modifications, the position of people like Mr. Henders and Mr. Argue will become very difficult. It will perhaps be too much to expect such loyal souls to break into open revolt but they are certain to indulge in secret remonstrances and will have to be pacified by Mr. Calder. That wily gentleman has lately been manoeuvring to defer the important measures like the Budget and the Franchise Act in favor of some minor bills which he says the

Government desire to put through; they deal with irrigation, immigration and other dull subjects. If the House could be kept occupied with this for a few weeks more and reduced to a state of jaded boredom, the Budget and the final stages of the Franchise Act could be timed to coincide with the hot days of early June. Members would be thoroughly tired of Ottawa and sighing for their homes and spouses. Their foremost anxiety would be to get the session finished at any cost and they would not be disposed to cause undue prolongation of debates and delve too deeply into financial mysteries. There would be a smaller volume of criticism and smaller chances of revolt. Coalitionists who had ideas about making trouble would be told it was not worth while when the end of the session was so near. It is understood that this delightful scheme of Mr. Calder's was submitted to the Opposition who wisely declined to have anything to do with it. They are right on insisting that the more important items should be proceeded with at once. Sir Henry Drayton will not fail through lack of counsel. He seems to have consulted personally every other member of the Commons upon his financial problem. In multitude of counsellors there is wisdom but the solutions which many of our present legislators would propound could only lead to hopeless confusion for him who listened to them. He is reported to be full of a fierce fervor to rob a few henroosts as Mr. Lloyd George was wont to say in his radical days and get hold of some share of the accumulations from war profits which Sir Thomas White allowed to slip through his hands. His zeal in this direction is to be commended and encouraged but it is little use locking the door after the steed is stolen. Some of the Government, probably Mr. Calder, who cannot quite forget that he represents a western constituency, have been toying with the notion of an excise tax which will remove a lot of the protective element from the tariff. The Western Coalitionists held a caucus last week where the subject was thoroughly discussed but they could arrive at no definite conclusion on the subject. The manufacturers will inevitably be up in arms at the proposal if it is included in the Budget and we can look for some noble oratory from Mr. Cockshutt and Col. Currie. An excise tax would certainly diminish the tariff profits of the manufacturers to a certain extent but so many of our industrial institutions are now merely branches of extensive combinations in America or Britain that ways and means could be devised of fastening the excise charge upon the consumer. As a device for raising revenue it is exceedingly clumsy. The Government, however, hardly dare introduce it without some preliminary campaign to educate the public on its supposed merits and there has been little sign of such a process.

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Sir Robert Borden will be greeted by a strange Queen of the May in the shape of that celebrated statesman, Mr. J. D. Reid, who escaped on the 29th of April from the scene of his Parliamentary triumphs in a private car bound for southern climes. For some occult reason Dr. Reid has always enjoyed Sir Robert's confidence and in this respect the Premier is probably unique among the nine million inhabitants of Canada. He can be better spared from active duty than Mr. Calder so he has gone to advise Sir Robert as to how his faithful cohorts are faring. His will not be a cheering tale but it will have some bright spots. He will be able to narrate how he himself skilfully foiled the impertinent queries of the Opposition, how when asked for instance a question about his friend, Mr. D. B. Hanna, he regretted that this gentleman was not at his office in Toronto to furnish the information whereas it is understood that he was actually in Ottawa and in contact with Mr. Reid the very day on which the question was asked: he will be in a position to tell how one of Mr. N. W. Rowell's satellite police on whose evidence about a score of residents of Canada were deported, has recently been hung for a murder of a peculiarly revolting kind. He can narrate how that great Imperialist, Col. Grant Morden, was entertained at a sumptuous banquet by prominent members of both parties as a sort of send off to his latest merger campaign and he can impart

a variety of other news. Possibly he may even tell Sir Robert of some of the strange utterances of Mr. J. Harry Flynn. Needless to say the object of the Minister of Railways' mission is not being proclaimed from the house tops but it can be surmised that he has been sent forth as a missionary to gain definite information about Sir Robert's health and plans. Few people now seriously pretend that the Premier will return to active political life and the best that is hoped for is that he will appear sometime early in June and give his blessings to a platform and a successor.

On Monday Mr. Bureau announced his intention of bringing forward a motion to end the quarantine which had been imposed upon pressmen and others as far as the lobbies adjacent to the House are concerned. Mr. Rowell made some progress with his Opium and Drug Amendment Bill. On a motion to go into supply, Mr. J. H. Sinclair raised an important question and launched the House upon a prolonged controversy. He made a charge that questions which had been asked in proper form about the National Railway System and the National Marine had been wantonly neglected by the Ministers responsible for these institutions on the pretext that replies were not in the public interest. He openly gave as his opinion that the questions were being evaded to conceal crimes and mismanagement. Dr. Reid made a great display of outraged virtue and waxed mightily in-

dignant at such insinuations. He made a counter charge that the Opposition had asked the questions referred to at the instigation of interested parties. So vehement was his rage that the Opposition thought they had struck a hot scent and others advanced to the attack. Messrs. Calder, Meighen and Sir Henry Drayton had therefore to come in turn to the rescue of their floundering colleague and the Finance Minister made really an admirable appeal to the House to give public ownership a fair chance.

On Tuesday Mr. Meighen introduced some useful amendments to the Soldiers' Settlement Act.

Suggestions were made for provision for nurses who had served in the war under the Act and for a scheme to assist sailors to get a start as fishermen. Some further progress was made with the Opium and Drugs Act. In the evening Mr. Armstrong of Lambton brought in what has now become an annual venture of his, a bill to put our inland shipping under the control of the Railway Commission, and supported it by excellent arguments. The proposal is essentially sound and would help to break down monopolistic combines among steamship owners which flourishes on the Great Lakes. Mr. Edmund Bristol the chief Parliamentary watchdog of the shipping interests who only attends Parliament when their preserves are menaced was on duty to expose the perils of Mr. Armstrong's bill and had organized a general conspiracy in which both parties were involved to defeat it. Mr. Reid of Mackenzie, an Independent, supported it but his name-

sake the Minister of Railways gave the measure its deathblow by moving the adjournment.

On Wednesday Dr. Béland was informed that it was not possible to make a definite announcement about the Canadian representative at Washington. Various complications have developed, not the least in which is the actual selection of the representative. Mr. Duff had unearthed the extraordinary fact that Mr. D. B. Hanna, who is Chief Executive of the Canadian National Marine, was also a director of its chief competitor, Canada Steamships Limited. When he questioned Mr. Reid on the subject the latter evaded an answer on the first day and subsequently Sir George Foster gave a most unsatisfactory explanation. The House then turned in Committee to Mr. Rowell's Opium and Drug Amendment Act and as is usual with measures sponsored by that statesman, its passage was somewhat stormy. Mr. Rowell is strong on noble sentiments and lofty generalities but weak on facts and his bill was mercilessly riddled by Mr. Stewart of Lanark who has a practical knowledge of the drug trade. Dr. McGibbon roused cheers from all sides when he also assailed the bill and told Mr. Rowell that "people are sick of restrictions and what they want if I am not very greatly mistaken is less interference with their habits and a little more liberty." Eventually the bill got through committee in a most emaciated form and is now scarcely recognizable as the original measure which Mr. Rowell introduced with such fervor. Subsequent to this a Petroleum and Naphtha Inspection Act was given a first reading and no less than four minor and non-contentions bills relating to Technical Education, Shipping, Trust and Loan Companies and Civil Service Insurance were given in quick succession a second reading, considered in committee, and then read for the third time. The closing half hour of the day saw the beginning of a bout about oleomargarine, the Government via Dr. Tolmie proposing to extend for a year longer the permit for its manufacture and importation.

On Thursday Mr. Angus Macdonald, the member elect for Temiskaming, took his seat in the house, sponsored by Mr. J. W. Kennedy, a fellow Glen-garrian and Major G. W. Andrews, a brother independent. There are two tame labor men sitting one on either side of the House but Mr. Macdonald is the first simonpure honest-to-God Labor representative to adorn this Parliament. In fact it is doubtful if any Canadian Parliament has ever contained such a genuine representative of the working classes. When James Keir Hardie entered the British House of Commons in 1892 the members of the old parties, it is recorded, felt he was the portent of a coming storm and to judge by the countenance of many of our parliamentarians a similar sensation pervaded their bosoms at the appearance of Mr. Macdonald. He is a big burly middleaged man in the prime of life and he looks a person possessed of both intelligence and character, who has opinions of his own and from all accounts is not afraid to express them. Sir George Foster gave some outline of what ad-



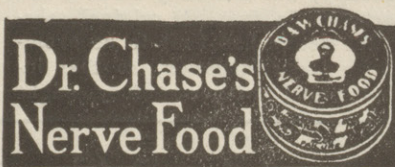
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ditional legislation the Government expected to bring down. A measure for the superannuation of certain ancient civil servants is contemplated, which is a step in the right direction. There will also be an amendment to the Postal Act which will increase the charges for carrying newspapers. At present the country carries papers like the Montreal Standard in vast numbers at a great annual loss; the present generous system was designed to

please Lord Atholstan and his friends. It is also reported that the Government intend to remove the obnoxious clauses from the Immigration Act discriminating against the British born. If Mr. Mackenzie King had had more political sagacity, he would have moved for their abrogation at the beginning of the session but he has probably now lost his opportunity. There will also be bills to amend the Irrigation Act, the Pharmacy Act, and the Railway Act. There may also be measures to amend the Yukon Placer Mining Act and to deal with regulations concerning commercial foodstuffs. Sir George Foster expressed the opinion that they need not take up between them much time of the House. Mr. Mackie of Edmonton introduced a bill to give a woman liberty to marry the brother of a deceased husband. Under the present law such a marriage is illegal though a man may marry the sister of his deceased wife. Further consideration of the Franchise Bill in Committee was then resumed and much futile discussion took place on Mr. Fielding's amendment about returning officers. Mr. Lemieux made his first speech of the session and had an interesting argument with Dr. Clark about the British practice. Dr. Clark opposed the amendment and very properly complained of the inordinate waste of the time of the House over what was a comparatively trivial matter. But it is the habit of the Opposition under its new leadership to strain at gnats and swallow camels. Eventually the Fielding amendment was voted down by 81 to 49. Friday was practically monopolized by the thorny question of oleomargarine. Mr. Best a Coalitionist, and Mr. J. W. Kennedy, an independent, both criticized the Government's proposals from different viewpoints. Mr. Best declared that it was legislation like this which was ruining agriculture, driving people from the land and decreasing food production and gave a solemn warning that the time was nigh when the towns and cities would feel a real scarcity of foodstuffs. Dr. Clark supported the removal of all restrictions on oleo and as a free trader took satisfaction in pointing out that the production of butter, so far from being hurt by the competition of oleo, had actually increased since the restrictions ceased to be in force.

—:o:—
"What animal makes the nearest approach to man?" asked the teacher.

"The cootie," replied the red-headed boy.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

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A Permanent Tariff Commission.---Its Nature and Functions

(By WALTER S. JOHNSON, in *Journal of Canadian Bankers' Association.*)

(Continued)

That such an umpire may be necessary at times, one illustration will make clear. What at the time was styled "an extraordinary condition" was brought to Mr. Borden's attention during his recent campaign in Saskatchewan. It was asserted that the eight-furrow plow manufactured by the Cockshutt firm, in Brantford, could be shipped to Des Moines, Iowa, paying the duty into the United States, and then be shipped back to Canada, paying the duty again, and yet be sold for less than its selling price in Winnipeg. The price in Des Moines, it was stated, was \$525, in Winnipeg, \$715. Such a condition, Mr. Borden replied, and rightly, a tariff commission could and would be asked to inquire into.

It was precisely similar conditions in the United States that made the demand for a permanent tariff commission imperative. Ex-Governor Batchelor of New Hampshire, speaking in 1908, before the Ways and Means Committee, said that he appeared as the spokesman of the Grange, an organization composed of a million members, farmers mostly, scattered through thirty States, of every shade of political opinion—but unanimous in demanding a tariff commission. When the farmers are told, he said, the American binders are sold to them for \$125, and are sold outside the country for considerable less, they want to know why. When it is learned that steel rails are sold, said another, to the Grand Trunk Railway in the States for one price and in Canada for less, the American railroads want to know why. And the complaints were loud and long, as an examination of the evidence will show. Speaker after speaker, representing (among many others) the National Live Stock Association, the leather industries, manufacturers of agricultural machinery and implements, demanded that the matter of the tariff and schedules and rates should be passed upon by a commission which might investigate, and be empowered to investigate, not only the cost, but the application of the cost, of production.

How thorough the work of a tariff commission should be, the Americans seem to have realized more nearly than even the methodical Germans. Possibly thoroughness, completeness, are more necessary where the work of investigation has just begun and the whole field of possible information must be covered at once. In France or Germany, where similar work has been carried on continuously for a good many years, a mass of

material has been accumulated which readily lends itself for reference and comparison and need not be repeated. For the benefit of Canadian students of the proposed commission, it may be useful to outline one piece of investigation lately undertaken by the American Tariff Board.

On the 7th of June last, the House of Representatives passed a resolution authorizing the President to call upon the commission for all available information concerning the articles and commodities named in Schedule K. of the Tariff and relating to wool and manufactures thereof. A preliminary report was made, and a full report promised for December. Meanwhile an inquiry, world-wide in scope, was instituted in relation to raw wools—their production and shrinkage, woolen and worsted manufacturing, and the manufacture of certain staple articles made from the products of that industry. (See Document 74, 62nd Congress 1st session.) As the rates then imposed were based largely upon the duty on raw wool, it was essential to study the sheep husbandry of the United States, South America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Europe. A most careful survey of wool-growing in the United States and of the conditions of the industry, was naturally of first importance. In fact, an original scheme of action had first to be evolved by the commission, so that investigators, wherever they might

be, might work harmoniously, and their data be subjected to a uniform analysis. Different inquiry schedules were prepared to be applicable to various aspects of the investigation. Some 500 sheep farms, in the Central and Western States, were visited by men specially chosen for their "special knowledge of sheep management, farm and ranch wages, and forage values." The returns from the 500 farms were then checked and tabulated, "the cost of maintenance determined, the weight and selling price of the clip ascertained, the cost in each case computed, and samples of the wool submitted to an expert to determine its market grade and its probable shrinkage." Meanwhile other representatives were scouring Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, and even the Province of Ontario. Another agent was despatched to Australia, whose inquiry was to be completed in London, a great distributing point for Australian wools. In New Zealand, a special agent was procured to make a report. A further agent was sent to South America, his objective being the sheep lands from the Straits of Magellan to Montevideo—a part of the world perhaps never before visited by a student interested in the economics of wool growing. Not even the Colonial auction sales of wool in London were overlooked, nor those in Continental ports. The relation of wool wastes and shoddy to spinning and weaving processes, the ratio of scoured to grease wool in various clips were also inquired into. The influence on prices of rail and ocean freights on raw wool was also an important aspect of the inquiry.

And following this study of the

raw material came that of the manufactured article—the woollen and worsted manufactures, covering the complete range of these goods in general use in the United States and the cost of production at home and abroad—wherever possible direct from the manufacturer's books. Agents of the board were also at work in England, Germany and France, inquiring into the personnel of the workmen, the machine equipment, the amount of work done, the hours of work, the wages and the output.

This report is now ready and printed. As a result, some extremely important facts about the woollen business in its relation to the tariff, have been placed before Congress and the people. For example, it is found that wool-growing costs more in the United States than in any competing country, and that in Austria wool is produced at the lowest average cost. Tariff difficulties at once appear. The present duty is 33 cents a pound on scoured wool, that is on wool in the grease, where the percentage of grease is the scoured content is known or standardized. Hence if on 100 pounds of wool in the grease a duty of \$33 is charged, and the scoured content is only 50 pounds of wool, the duty on a wool yielding a smaller scoured content quickly becomes prohibitive. Clean, low-priced foreign wools of a lower grade, which are well adapted to displace the cheap substitutes now in use, are shut out from the American market.

The Board therefore reports "that the chief objections to the present rate on the grease pound could be met by levying some form of specific duty based on the clean or scoured content of the wool imported. The necessary machinery for testing at ports of entry could be installed promptly and cheaply, and could be maintained at small expense." It is pointed out that the present duties on wool wastes or shoddy prevent importation. While, for instance, shoddy competes with wool, and the wool-grower is entitled to fair protection, "the present duty on shoddy is higher than the duty on the scoured content of the wool actually imported." We may expect, as a result of the report, to have such a readjustment of the American tariff as will permit of the importation of shoddy on a fairer basis. Again it is found that on tops and yarns the duty is prohibitive—"women's dress goods weighing 4 ounces or under per yard are still imported in large quantities, and these paid in 1911 an average duty of 102 per cent!" The rate is far greater than is needed; while in the case of some low-grade goods, the raw material could be bought in the protected country for less than the amount of the duty. Here also the Board states that by basing the duty on the scoured content rather than on the grease pound, a rate fair alike to the consumer and to the producers, both domestic and

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foreign, would result. The Board adduces further proof, if any were needed. It shows that on protected woollen fabrics, in general, prices are not increased by the full amount of the duty. For instance, on 16 samples of foreign goods, of a total value abroad of \$41.84, the duty would be \$76.90. The cost to the American consumer would therefore be \$118.90. But the actual cost to the consumer of similar goods manufactured in the United States is \$69.75. Hence the domestic price is but 67 per cent. higher than the foreign, although the nominal duties on these goods are actually 184 per cent. How then can the duty be made more just to the consumer while still affording fair protection to the producer? The Board explains: "A fair solution seems to be the adoption of a graduated scale under which the *ad valorem* rate assessed properly on goods of low value should then increase progressively, according to slight increments of value, up to whatever maximum rate should be fixed. A single specific compensatory duty, if adequate for all-wool goods made from imported wool, would be excessive for low-grade goods containing cheaper materials. This could be partly offset by a lower *ad valorem* rate on such goods. Specific compensatory duties could be assessed at two or more rates according to value."

I contend that even from so brief a summary of the seven large volumes of the Report on Schedule K, Wool, are apparent the reasonableness of the Commission, the thoroughness of its investigation, the scientific nature of its findings,

and the possibility of a precise adjustment of the tariff to the needs of the producer and the protection of the consumer. Moreover, the five commissioners were unanimous in their findings.

A similar report on "Pulp and news-print paper" and on "Canadian Reciprocity" were prepared last summer and used very effectively during our recent election. Of the former, the president of the American Paper and Pulp Association ordered 800 copies, and pronounced it "a most valuable book, which should be in the possession of every manufacturer." A leading authority on tariff questions, an official of the Imperial Ministry of Commerce of Austria, says: "The report is excellent... you will soon leave all the European governmental departments behind in the publication of model reports on questions of commercial policy. This report will attract great attention in Europe."

It is quite erroneous to suppose that these reports necessarily put any obligation upon the Government. That is not so in the United States at present, and certainly would not be so here under the proposed bill. The American Tariff Board is merely a creation of the Government, to which it is responsible.

The board consists of five members; and will probably, if its work proves satisfactory, be, by special Act, constituted a permanent tariff commission. The chairman, Henry Crosby Emery, was a professor of Economics at Yale, and a friend of President Taft. James Burtin Reynolds, also a Republican, and formerly a newspaper correspondent,

was chairman of the commission which during Mr. Roosevelt's administration went abroad to study foreign trade relations. He was afterwards Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. He is a High Protectionist. Alvin Howard Saunders, also a newspaper man, is owner of the "Breeder's Gazette", which has opposed the removal of the duty on hides, though he has been chairman of the American Reciprocity Tariff League. The other two members are Democrats—William M. Howard, a Georgia lawyer, who served seven terms in Congress and was for a time a member of the Foreign Relations Committee; and Thomas W. Page, a professor of Political Economy in the University of Virginia. He had filled a similar position in the University of California and the University of Texas. So that the sympathies of the Board were fairly evenly divided. It is a fine tribute to the fairness of the members of the board that their final decisions have been unanimous. With a board so constituted, political bias must be unknown. We would expect the assumption of the unbiased judicial attitude, as we would from a judge upon the bench. In that respect, the trial has been eminently a success, and criticism on that score has been effectively silenced.

What the Americans have done so well, we can do in Canada as well, and, as usual, better. But we must first do away with a parliamentary tariff committee; we must understand that a committee of members of the party in power, drawn from various stations in life, or business equipment, and with perhaps the onerous duties of a Department to attend to, cannot take the place of a permanent tariff commission as we have outlined it. Our last tariff committee, composed of members of the Cabinet, attempted to do, with a secretary or two, what the German Tariff Commission of thirty members, assisted by a staff of five hundred trained men and two thousand industrial experts, accomplished in about six years. Our "Cabinet" commission sat for some months, heard a host of witnesses and special pleaders for particular interests, and made no further personal or expert examination to test the accuracy of the evidence heard. But the irony of the situation was accentuated when it was later found, and openly stated, that the tariff proposed by the committee as the result of its investigation was infinitely better than the tariff as it emerged with the fiat of Cabinet and Government.

The "Montreal Star" takes the view that if the Commission is not to have the actual making of the Tariff, its work could be done by a few clerks from the Finance Department. "A tariff commission ought to be more than a company of clerks commissioned to collect

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS

The regular monthly meeting of the Executive Board of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association will be held at 316 Lagau-chetière street, west, corner of Beaver Hall Hill, at eight p.m. on Monday, May 10th.

and tabulate statistics. It ought to be permitted and even required to give advice and make suggestions." Possibly, if the foregoing paper has been written to any purpose, the commission outlined in the Bill and designed to duplicate the work of the American Board, will not appear to the reader as "emasculated" as the "Star" would have one believe.

Walter S. Johnson.

NEWSWRITERS' UNION OFFICERS ELECTED

Kennedy Crone of the Canadian Railroader is the newly-elected President of the Newswriters' Union of Montreal. Major Aime Grothe, of the famous 22nd Battalion, who has returned to journalism on La Presse, is the new First Vice-President. Eugene Beaulac, City Editor of Le Canada, who was President for the past term, is now Second Vice-President. S. Lamallice, who was in the 22nd Battalion, and is now with La Presse, is Recording Secretary, and Victorien Barre is Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Barre, who was in the local newspaper game for some years, has just been appointed Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Women and Children, one of nearly half a dozen local journalists to accept public posts within the last twelve months. The new Sergeant-at-arms of the Union is Raymond Van Stratum, an ex-Major of the Belgian Army, and on La Presse staff. Trustees are: Ed. McMahon, Gazette; Louis Luys, Le Canada; E. Arthur Lauze, La Presse. Delegates to Trades and Labor Council are: Gustave Franeg, Labor World; Grant Smith, Herald; Dr. Gaston Maillet, L'Autorite. Gustave Franeg is one of the most widely-known and influential figures in the International Labor movement. Last week he was in Ottawa as a member of the Department of Labor conference on unification of labor laws. He is Vice-President of the Province of Quebec section of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, Vice-President of the International Labor Press Conference, and is on the executive board of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council. Delegates to the Allied Printing Trades Council of Montreal are: Roy A. Jardine, Star; Henri St-Pierre and L. A. Girard.



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OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

(From our own correspondent)

Glasgow, April 16.

The King through his advisers has refused a wage of \$6 per week to his employees on the Royal estates in Scotland. Some time ago gardeners and laborers on the King's estates at Balmoral Birkhall and Abergeldie applied for an eight-hour day and \$6 per week. The retort of Captain Ramsay, the King's Commissioner, was in effect:—"Give the men option of working ten hours or a week's notice." Angry protests from various quarters showed that the King's Commissioner had made a false step, and attempts were made to explain away the message. But Captain Ramsay is still defiant, as the following letter received by Mr. Harold Gill, the secretary of the Aberdeen District Council of the Scottish Federations of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, from a representative of the men on the Royal considered for some time, but he could give us no date when shorter hours would be commenced, and stated that we were paid higher wages than on any of the surrounding estates. Therefore we ought to consider ourselves well off. He also stated that he would defy the Sailors estates shows:—"All workmen were called to the estate office by

Captain Ramsay and he told us that our application had been considered at headquarters in London. He said that a rise to \$6 per week had been considered ridiculous, and that no higher wages would be given. The question of shorter hours had been and Soldiers' Federation to interfere in any way with this, as they had nothing to do with the labor question whatever. We wish to point out that men employed on two home farms here are working a nine-hour day, and have never worked ten hours. A few of the discharged men have left the estates lately for better situations." It is anticipated that further investigations will be made with a view to bringing the matter to a satisfactory conclusion. There is a strong feeling among the Balmoral employees, as well as among ex-service men generally, that the case ought to be taken up by the trade unions in co-operation with the discharged men's union.

Railway Charter.

A "Railwayman's Charter" is being circulated to the branches of the National Union of Railwaymen, but, it is suggested, should be submitted to a special delegate meeting of the N.U.R. in October. It is proposed that other bodies which have previously co-operated with the N.U.R. should be invited to take part in this meeting, and that, if adopted, the Charter should be presented to the companies in January, 1921, and become operative as from May, 1921. The chief points of the new charter are:—\$5 a day; \$30 a week. A guaranteed week: 42 hours to be the working week; A six-hour day; Highly-paid posts to be filled by ballot; Good pensions at 60 years of age; Public ownership and workers' control of railways; Twenty-one days annual holiday, with pay. The minimum wage proposed is \$20 per week at 21, and "uniforms of good quality" are also demanded.

Coal in Highlands.

It is not generally known that there are coal seams near Rothesay and also on the Island of Skye and Mull. Speaking at the annual meeting of the Mining Institute of Scotland, held in Glasgow, Mr. R. M'Laren, M.P., the President, said that there was a thin seam of coal just outside Rothesay, but the samples hitherto procured did not indicate that the coal was of exceptional value. Probably the matter would be gone into by experts interested. Mr. Wallace Thornycroft, Plea, stated that not so many years ago a pit had been sunk outside Portree Harbour, Skye, but the enterprise had not been successful, mainly because the coal appeared to be similar to that found in Ireland. Commenting on a statement made by Mr. R. W. Dron,

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Glasgow, to the effect that there were similar deposits in Mull, Professor Gregory, Glasgow, said he believed the seam was being worked locally. He knew that during the fuel shortage the local farmers had been extracting as much coal as they could.

Rescue Workers.

The National Federation of Miners' Rescue Workers, comprising five thousand members in most of the British coalfields, have decided not to be responsible for rescue work until the mine owners confer with them upon relative grievances. The Federation for some time have been pressing for improved pay and more adequate compensation in the event of death or injury. The mining rescue brigade men in Lanarkshire, Stirlingshire, Dumbartonshire, and

West Lothian have ceased work following upon the refusal of the colliery proprietors to admit the right of the Miners' Union to present and negotiate a claim on behalf of the rescue men for increased wages and improved conditions. The circumstances of the dispute have been intimated to the Home Office and Coal Control headquarters, both of which departments have sent representatives into the affected areas to ascertain and report upon the facts.

Joiners' Wages

The Scottish District Committee of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners have advised the members of the society to remain at work pending the outcome of the negotiations with the employers in the building trade with regard to the claim of a workmen for a minimum rate of 60c. per hour, which is an advance of 6½ on the present rate.

Jute Trade.

Dislocation is threatened in the mills and factories owing to the position taken up by the mechanical staffs. When the working hours were recently reduced to 48 hours per week the mechanics, joiners and other tradesmen made a demand for 47 hours, and when this was refused stopped work at eleven o'clock on Saturday instead of twelve. Negotiations have been proceeding between parties during the week. An offer of a conference was made by the employers, but the men adhered to their demand for 47 hours, and were sub-

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sequently informed that unless the hours were the same as the other workers their services would no longer be required. A number of the men have lifted their tools and have not returned to work.

Shipyards Clerks.

The strike of the office staff and timekeepers employed by Messrs. D. & W. Henderson & Co. (Limited), Shipbuilders Patrick, continues. Mr. Harold Pearson, general secretary of the Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Steel Commercial Staffs Association had an interview with the management, and was informed that the

firm were quite willing to follow their usual custom, and to receive a deputation from their workers in order to discuss any question which these might wish to raise—but only after work had been resumed. At a meeting of this kind such matters as wages and the recognition of the employees' society could be legitimately raised and considered. Mr. Pearson reported this to the strikers, who decided not to resume work until they had been first assured that their association would be officially recognized as representing them.

Builders' Pay.

Recently an Industrial Court refused the demand of the Scottish building trade workers for an increase of 12c. an hour, bringing their wages up to 60c. an hour. As a result of a conference between masters and men of all branches of the Scottish building trades the offer of 3c. an hour has been accepted, save in the case of joiners.

Farm Workers.

At a meeting of the Central Agricultural Wages Committee for Scotland there was under consideration an Order of the Border Counties Committee increasing by \$1 per week the minimum rates for all classes of male workers over 18 years of age. The Committee decided to disallow it (a) in order that the District Committee might have the opportunity of consolidating all their Orders in the form of schedule suggested by the Central Committee; and (b) in order that they might reconsider the rates fixed in the light of the information and suggestions contained in a memorandum submitted by the chairman. In the chairman's memorandum it is pointed out that in the Border counties district as a whole the average value of the present total earnings of an adult ploughman is about seven hours of stable work. The memorandum suggests that, instead of the rates now fixed by the District Committee a scale should be adopted which would give for men over 21 approximately the following rates of minimum wage, besides the 60c. per week allowed for each dog: — Experienced ploughman, cattleman, or shepherd, \$12; inexperienced ploughman, cattleman, or shepherd, 71c.; other workmen employed in farm work (a) experienced, \$10; (b) inexperienced, \$9; workmen in woodlands, nursery grounds, and orchards (a) experienced, \$3.33; (b) inexperienced, \$7.50.

Increased Wages.

In connection with an application for an increase of \$2.50 per week by the linen factory operatives of Dunfermline a settlement has now been reached by the acceptance of offers by several firms. The offers vary, but all classes of workers receive substantial increase.

James Gibson.

More Deadly Than War

Statistics show that influenza is much more deadly than war. In a few months it took more victims than fell in over four years of fighting.

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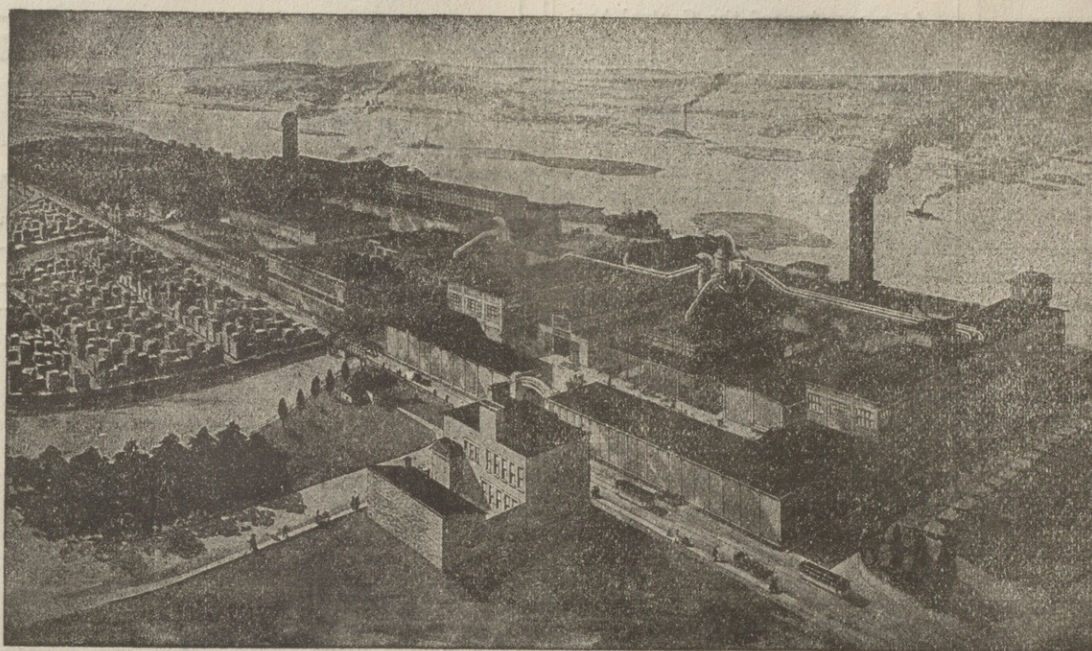
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